Alternate scholarship program falls short

By Stephanie Palack
The Center for Alternative Scholarship Help (CASH) has failed to meet its goal of securing at least $10,000 in outside scholarships for MIT students by the end of January.

CASH was established by the Undergraduate Association (UA) to serve as a resource center for graduating and postgraduate students seeking scholarships from sources other than MIT. Fifty-five applications have been filed on behalf of MIT students since the program officially began February 1.

CASH Chairman Peter Balbus '81 noted that most scholarship acceptance decisions are not made until March or April and he considered any money raised from applications filed before January 31 as applying toward the $10,000 goal. The self-imposed target was established as a condition for receipt of $300 from the UA Finance Board (Finance Board) for initial costs. The funds came from the UA President's Special Projects/Consumer Services budget.

Director of Student Financial Aid Leonard Gallagher '54 said that the CASH program was operating independently of the Financial Aid Office but with "our knowledge and understanding of the mission to be performed by students in this area." Gallagher cited several reasons for Financial Aid's failure to help students find outside scholarships, but conceded that "these are all excuses for why we're not doing something we should be doing."

Balbus noted that CASH was understaffed and has had difficulty recruiting student volunteers. Besides Balbus, three other students have been working on the program. Balbus said that he is "putting in two hours per week tops—I just don't have the time."

Balbus commented that he would like to set up an experimental program under which students who received outside scholarships would not have the total amount of the award deducted from their MIT financial aid. He is "putting in two hours per week tops—I just don't have the time."

Balbus said that Gallagher confirmed that the Financial Aid Office currently considers all outside scholarships to be personal, resources, and therefore deductible from MIT aid. He noted that at one time MIT used "a formula approach to outside grants such that the students get to retain a part of them as gravy." Gallagher cited the reason for the current approach as "financial wee're hitting up the Institute for $3.7 million in unrestricted funds."

Even without a change in Financial Aid's policy regarding deduction of outside awards, "students who are getting nothing from MIT stand to gain substantially" from CASH, according to Gallagher. He noted that the policy on deduction is always "rightly under fire" and is reviewed annually, so that a change might be made if CASH proved highly successful.

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The United Nations Association of Greater Boston is sponsoring an "International Careers Forum" on Saturday, February 28, to explore with students the multitude of international careers in both the private and public sectors. Seminars will be held on law, journalism, banking, and non-profit organizations.

Scholarship Help (CASH) has the mission to be personal. Resources and space is limited. Those interested should contact Elizabeth Red in the Career Planning and Placement Office, 12-170.

The Cambridge Forum will sponsor a discussion of the nationally growing problem of suicide, on Wednesday, February 25, at 8pm, at 3 Church St., Harvard Square. Speakers will be: Dr. Paul Walters, director, Mental Health Services of Harvard University, and Ruth Parillo and Reverend Linnea Pearson, co-authors of Separate Paths: Why People End Their Lives. This session will be free and open to the public.

The Black Rose Lecture Series will present Robert Elberg on the subject of "Religious Anarchism: Dorothy Day and the Catholic Worker Movement." on Friday, February 27, at 8pm

Meetings
On Wednesday, February 25, from 2 until 4pm the Director of the Environmental Intern Program will hold a meeting in the Emma Rogers Room, 10-340, to inform undergraduate and graduate students about paid summer work opportunities sponsored by the program. These internships are within government agencies, corporations, and non-profit organizations. Program descriptions and applications are available in the Career Planning and Placement Office, 12-170

There will be a meeting for student interested in joining the MIT Association for Recording Science in 205-009 at 2 pm on Tuesday, February 24. For more information, contact Jon at 815-6680.

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